

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 8/10/2011

GAIN Report Number: IN1173

India

Post: New Delhi

FSSAI Alerts States and Ports on Food Safety-Issues Advisories

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Approved By:

David Leishman

Prepared By:

Ritambhara Singh

Report Highlights:

Following the cases of E. coli bacterial outbreak in many European countries, the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) instructed Indian port of entry officials to closely monitor fresh Fruits and Vegetables imported from Europe for E. coli bacterial contamination. As a precautionary measure, all imported fresh Fruits and Vegetables from Europe are subject to testing for E. coli bacteria. On June 10, 2011, FSSAI released a new set of advisories to the State Food Safety Commissioners and Authorized Officers at the various ports of entry, asking them to intensify efforts to ensure consumer safety.

General Information:

The E. coli bacterial outbreak in Germany has raised health concerns regarding the importation of fruit and vegetables. As various countries took action against fruit and vegetables originating from the EU, India also took precautionary measures. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) instructed Indian port of entry officials to monitor the import of fruit and vegetables from the EU. Per the existing Indian law, high risk imported commodities and/ or perishable commodities are subject to 100 percent sampling. (For more details refer to [GAIN Report: IN1104](#)). For further details please refer to the following instructions: [FSSAI Instructions](#)

The FSSAI has streamlined the food safety regulatory system with the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Rules and Regulations. The Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011 were notified in the [Gazette of India on 5th May, 2011](#) and are now in force. On June 10, 2011, FSSAI released a new set of advisories to State level Food Safety Commissioners and Authorized Officers at the ports of entry, asking them to intensify efforts to ensure consumer safety.

Advisories in Brief:

1. Advisory **“regarding presence of antibiotics in honey.”** FSSAI’s Authorized Officers are instructed to verify that honey imported into India is ‘free from antibiotics’, and meets standards set in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955. If the presence of antibiotics/contaminants is detected, the consignment should be rejected and a report must be sent to the central authorities at FSSAI.

(Note: Around 90 percent of Indian honey imports are from China. The U.S. and France account for about 2 percent each, and the remaining imports come from Saudi Arabia, Australia and various EU countries).

2. Advisory regarding the **“adulteration in Buckwheat or kuttu flour.”** Buckwheat samples have been found prone to fungus and mycotoxins, particularly during the rainy season (June-September). The FSSAI has ordered State Food Safety Commissioners to be vigilant and to conduct regular random sampling and testing of the product at retail shops.
3. Advisory regarding the **“adulteration in all foods, especially of daily use products like fruit and vegetables, vegetable oils, milk and milk products etc.”** The FSSAI has asked State Food Safety Commissioners to identify those engaged in food adulteration, and if necessary take legal action.

Advisories are available on the FSSAI’s website:

[FSSAI's advisories to the States and Authorized Officers at the port of entry](#)